

A Story of Courage

(Continued from Page One) Cooney, would place a book on a stool for Charles to see, to break that awful monotony of staring . . . staring at the floor, hour after hour, day after day.

His mother and sister, Clara, staunchly stood by him in the darkness of those days of despair. "They were under a strain, too," said Charles. "They were told that there was no use to wait — that I was never coming home."

But they waited — and hoped. A ray of light came with Charles' first great victory, a thrilling moment when he held a paper cup in his hands — all alone, without help.

But the great turning point in the life of Charles Schmitt came when he was transferred to Rancho Los Amigos, about four months after he was smashed by the sea.

"It was Heaven sent," said Charles. "Without the rehabilitation work of those wonderful people at Rancho Los Amigos, it would have been impossible for me to have come back."

When he arrived, Charles says now, "I had everything to come back with, but no will to use what I had."

He looked about him at the Rancho and saw that others were, in fact, worse off than he.

"I saw them perform what seemed to me to be miracles," said Charles.

Slowly, he learned to do everything all over again — to pick his teeth, to comb his hair, to flex his wrists in order to help overcome the paralysis that numbs his

fingers. That same feeling of helplessness Charles knew while he was trapped in the rolling sea has accompanied him on every step along the way back from the depths of despair, the feeling that "I was falling, I knew I was going to get hurt, but I couldn't do anything about it."

Charles knew that feeling when he first tried to sit up after more than a year on his stomach and side. When he first tried to get into a wheel chair. When he first returned to school.

When he first tried to get from the wheel chair to a bed, and back, then into a car, and back.

That same feeling of helplessness is with Charles today, and will be as long as he lives, but it doesn't bother him any more.

You see, somewhere along the way, as Charles helplessly fell time and time again, he found the courage to get up.

(Next Week: Charles faces the future.)

Elga L. Green Gets 20-Year Pin for Service

A 20-Year Service Award Pin has been presented to Elga L. Green, 1556 W. 226th St., Torrance, by the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles.

Bernard Carvello, Housing Commissioner, made the presentation during the annual employees' meeting. The Authority is now celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Use Torrance Press classified ads. Phone DA 5-1515.

What's New In Library?

Among the new books (with authors' last names in parenthesis) recently placed on the shelves of the Torrance Public Library are:

New fiction: Strange Relations (Barry); The Testament of Caspar Schultz (Fallon); The Wandering Widows (Ferraris); The Case of the Ice-Cold Hands and The Case of the Mischiefous Doll (Gardner); Sea Hawk Calling (Henriksen).

The Shadow of a Dream, and An Imperative Duty (Howells); A for Andromeda (Hoyle); The Man Who Played God (St. John); Silence Over Dunkerque (Tunis); George Winthrop (Wilson); Triumph (Wylie).

New non-fiction: The Writer's Handbook; A History of California newspapers (Kemble); Introduction to Comparative Philosophy (Sarason); The World Through Your Senses (Riedman); Decisive Battles of the Bible (Longstreth); The Orthodox Church, Its Past, and Its Role in the World Today (Meyendorff); Sex Culture and Myth (Malinowski).
Spearheads of Democracy (Lodge); The Money Changers (Fuller); Marvels of American Industry (Cooke); Black Nationalism (Essien-Udom); Dillinger (Cromie); The Police Officer and the Child (Holman); Teacher Education (Smith).

Careers in Photography (Bennett); The Academic Community (Millett); Public Enterprise Economics and Transport Problems (Kuhn); Science in Progress; Algebra for the Practical Man (Thompson); Obstetrics for Nurses (De Lee).

Health for Effective Living (Johns); Applied Clay Mineralogy (Grim); Building with Electronics (Zarchy); Radar Pocket Book (Boulding); The Identification of Firearms and Forensic Ballistics (Burrand); Audel's Outboard Motor and Boating Guide (Anderson).

A Book About Soils for the Home Gardner (Orloff); The Complete Skye Terrier (Montgomery); Outdoor Lighting for your Home (Schuler); The Whites of Their Eyes (Wilson); Simon Rodia's Towers in Watts, (Los Angeles Museum of History, Science, and Art).

Crowell's Handbook of Gilbert and Sullivan (Moore); I Can Get It For You Wholesale (Weidman); Give Father a Hard Knock (Kraft); Representative Selections from Edgar Allan Poe; John Donne (Gardner); The Chamber Plays (Strindberg); A Lion in Court (Hallinan); Henry James (Edel).

The Fall of the Dynasties (Taylor); The Fall of Crete (Clark); Pan-Africanism Reconsidered (American Society of African Culture); The Lonely African (Turnbull); California's Gabriellino Indians (Johnston); The

Little League To Tryout Feb. 9

The Torrance Central Little League will hold its final day of tryouts and registration, next Saturday, Feb. 9, at Mobil Field, 3950 W. 190th St.

Boys eight, nine and ten, may tryout at nine in the morning, and boys 11 and 12 at 1 in the afternoon. Boys must be accompanied by a parent to register and bring proof of birth.

Any boy will be eight by July 31, and will not be 13 before Aug. 1 is eligible provided he lives in the area bounded on 190th St., Hawthorne Blvd., Carson St., and Western Ave.

Don't worry about tomorrow. Wait'll the day after, then it will be yesterday.

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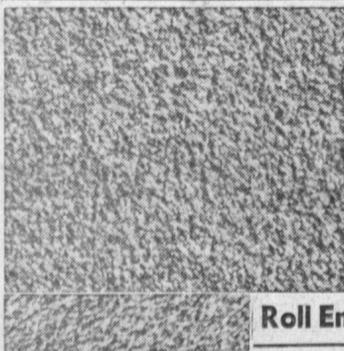
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